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THE PROGRESSIVE TENDENCY.

The Review of Reviews points out in its current number that, quite without reference to party names and partisan traditions, the progressive spirit is the ruling force today in our public life. This fact is so patent that it justifies the further observation of the same periodical that "there are great masses of intelligent voters in all of the three leading parties whose similar convictions would justify their acting together in political matters."

That is perfectly correct. It is the very point that Mr. Munsey has urged repeatedly in his discussions of substituting a natural for an unnatural party cleavage. The Review of Reviews points to the anomaly that while standpat Republicans are the strongest protectionists, another element of Republicans are the strongest advocates of tariff reform. That sort of anomalies may be discovered in analysis of almost any important issue of today. The real division is between liberals and conservatives. Loyalties, so far as loyalties remain, are more to traditions, fetiches, sentiment, and names, than to the principles that either of the old parties stand for. "Quite regardless of party membership," adds the Review of Reviews, "the progressive movement is guiding the work of legislatures, and clarifying the purposes and ideals of executive officers."

The great issue at Washington during the next two years will not present themselves along the lines of any existing party cleavage.

The next two years may be expected to bring a logical and sane readjustment of party affiliations to the real sentiments of the country. It has been made plain that the people cannot be pulled and hauled into a line-up that means nothing to them. The people can't be made over to suit the parties; the parties will have to be adjusted to suit the people.

ELIMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Governor Baldwin, of Connecticut, advocates an amendment to the Constitution doing away with the electors and providing direct vote for President and Vice President, each State to have the same proportionate voice in making up the national verdict as at present.

While this would not be a complete solution of the difficulty that is presented by the cumbersome machinery of the Electoral College, it would be a step in the right direction and the rest could be left to time. One obvious advantage would be that such disputes as those in regard to the Roosevelt and Taft electors, which embarrassed the voters of not a few States last year, would be done away with. The people's wish would find direct expression at the polls on the subject that is of supreme importance to their political welfare.

Another point to be gained would be the possibility of discrimination in voting for candidates for Vice President. The framers of the Constitution intended that this position should be almost equal in importance to the Presidency. They provided that the electors should vote by ballot for two persons, the one receiving the highest number, if a majority, to be President and the one receiving the next highest to be Vice President. This has been changed by the Twelfth Amendment, and for nearly a hundred years the choice of the Vice President has been regarded usually as a side issue. The nation has been rather in the habit of elevating inferior men to that position, and if they have risen to the full measure of their responsibilities later it has not been due to the foresight of the voters.

SECRETARY KNOX'S ANSWER TO ENGLAND.

In view of the repeated allegations that this country has knowingly and perfidiously violated the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in exempting American coastwise shipping from payment of canal tolls, the answer by Secretary Knox yesterday to the English note of protest must prove very welcome. It is a strong, direct, and common-sense argument; it relieves us of the charge of bad faith; it demonstrates that whatever disputes may arise between the United States and England through the operation of the canal act can probably be settled by diplomacy alone, and that until that means of adjustment has been tried and failed we are justified in refusing to arbitrate.

The point seems well taken that the treaty can be considered to have been violated only if the canal law actually does operate to the injury of or in discrimination against foreign shipping. The law certainly confers upon the Executive powers which might be used prejudicially to England's interest. But, as England admits our right to subsidize, as the toll rates fixed are based on the probable receipts from all shipping, without allowance for rebates to American coastwise vessels, and as the subsidy plan will admittedly not prove discriminatory if confined to bona fide coastwise traffic, the present basis of dispute seems limited to whether this country can be trusted to administer the law fairly or intends to abuse it. This is hardly an arbitrable question.

The avenue of diplomatic negotiation proposed by Mr. Knox is of great interest because in it is seen the germ of the Taft plan of arbitration. This is just such a question as it was proposed to handle, first through the ordinary channels of diplomacy, next by reference to a joint high commission, and only after all other names had failed, to the Hague Tribunal.

The commission proposed by Mr. Knox, con-

tingent upon the failure of the two governments to reach an agreement, would have only power to investigate and report; the Senate would agree to nothing more than that. But if the dispute hinges on a question of fact, and in the event of the findings being against us, we can rectify our position by better enforcement of the law. There seems to be no purpose in rushing at once to the Hague. That ought to be the last resource, not the first; and the interposition of a second step in the process, which would tend to make a continuation of direct negotiations possible, is well suggested.

At any rate, Secretary Knox's answer makes it apparent that there is no reason for the repeal of the canal law on the ground of international law. But by that same token it relieves Congress from fear that its repeal would be taken as a shame-faced confession of an attempted perfidious act. The stronger our position against England the easier it becomes for Congress to act with common sense in behalf of this country's interests. It has been pretty well demonstrated that public opinion here was poorly gauged when there was felt to be a desire for subsidizing our canal shipping. Congress can now rectify that error with good grace.

GOVERNOR WILSON AND THE DISTRICT.

There had been ample evidence, even before Governor Wilson announced that "his nose was on the trail" of District of Columbia affairs, that no nominations for District Commissioners were likely to be confirmed at this session of Congress. The suggestive observations of the President-elect may be set down as distinctly increasing the probability that he, and not Mr. Taft, will name the three executives who will administer this jurisdiction the coming four years.

Serious and disinterested well-wishers of the real public interest in Washington will be glad of assurance that the incoming President has his nose on the trail. They will earnestly hope that he may not follow off a false scent or chase up a blind alley. There has been too much of that sort of thing among people who, without accurate and detailed information about Washington, have undertaken to prescribe for the town and its troubles.

Washington doesn't need and doesn't want to be revolutionized. It wants and needs progress; a chance to develop its governmental system in accordance with the experience and the thought that are giving direction to municipal evolution in really progressive communities.

Commissioner Rudolph the other day assured a Congressional committee that Washington's government is peculiarly excellent, and assumed for it the credit of inspiring the commission plan of city administration. It is hard to believe that the Commissioner intended to be taken seriously when he suggested that Washington's kind of commission government, representing nobody in the local community and responsible to nobody, was a model for the "Des Moines plan" cities, with the initiative and referendum, the recall, the double non-partisan election, the careful and scientific distribution of duties, the instant responsibility to the people and nobody else. There is just one point of similarity between Washington and those cities which are ruled under the modern commission plans: there is in each case a commission. After that the parallel ends.

Commissioner Rudolph suggests life terms for the Commissioners here. The proposal illustrates how sadly he is in error in attempting to point a parallel with the Des Moines plan towns, where, instead of life-term commissioners utterly removed from responsibility to the local community, they swing to the other pole, and have elective commissions liable to be called to responsibility, under the recall, to the people, at any time.

If President Wilson has in mind to do something worth while for Washington, the first task ahead of him is thoroughly and candidly to inform himself about facts and conditions here.

THE WORLD COMBINE IN STEEL?

The testimony of W. E. Corey, former head of the United States Steel Corporation, in the Government suit for the dissolution of the corporation will be seized for use to the full extent, not only by the Department of Justice, which is pressing this prosecution, but by the Democratic tariff makers who are making up the metal schedule.

Mr. Corey's evidence recited a hard and fast agreement on steel rails between his former corporation and the independents; also an understanding between the steel makers of England, Germany, France, and Belgium and the United States Steel Corporation and other American manufacturers on the seaboard in a position to do an export business, under which the manufacturers of each country refrained from selling rails in the markets of any of the other countries. In countries in which there were no steel manufacturers the tonnage was divided among those of the five countries.

As Corey leaves the case there is a gap in the record. He could testify as to the end of 1910, when he left the corporation. Then this agreement was in effect. But in 1911 Farrell, his successor as head of the Steel Corporation, and C. M. Schwab both declared that no such pool was in existence. Judge Gary agreed. On the weight of evidence it would appear that if there had been an international pool it had been dissolved.

Not That Kind.

"What is it wound up on that cart?" asked the old lady visiting the fire house.

"Fireman's hose," was the answer.

"Excuse me," she said indignantly. "You can't tell me that any fireman or anyone else ever had legs to fit those things."

Can He Stand It?

This is Mrs. Forbes-Robertson Hale's latest sufferage story:

"A negro woman was arguing and arguing with her husband, and when she had finished, he said, 'Dinah, you talk don't affect me no more than a flea-bite.'"

"Well, nigkah," she answered. "I's gonna keep yo' scratchin'."

Woman's Home Companion.

THIS & THAT

With Sometimes a Little of the Other

What would we—say nothing of the Sunday papers—do without the Saturday round of banquets, and their consequent deep, in champagne, discussions of the national issues? Surely it's time to quit gazing the high school grad's commencement paper and bestow a little attention on the jolly banqueters. How, we repeat, could we do without them? Answer: Very easily.

CRASH OF DRUMS; CHEERS WITH-
OUT; ENTER THE MILLENNIUM!
(From The "Times.")

One effect of the closeness of the Senate situation will be to compel Democratic Senators to attend the sessions of the Senate.

"Fifteen new Senate faces," announces the "Star." "Will assume togas in the next Congress." And the published portraits of some of the fifteen tend to demonstrate that it wouldn't be a bad idea.

"Toga," we are surprised to note, figures only seven times in the account of the fifteen newcomers. What, we wonder, will be worn by the eight other senators?

(1) We Don't Dare. (2) We Won't Mention It.

Dear G. S. K.—I want to say, since you've some verse to write each day: Why don't you spread it out. This way, Somewhat As Col. W. J. Lampton Does It?

Here is my muse, not necessarily of otherwise, for publication:
STEPHEN CONRAD STUNTZ,
Vienna, Va.

P. S.—Please don't use even the initials, as I have friends who accuse me of this sort of thing. S. C. S.

March 1, say the contractors, will see the completion of the reviewing stands, and chemists report an unusually brisk business in sodium chloride. Our own surmise is that carpenters still will be carpentering at 10:45 on the morning of March 4, contractors, with the possible exception of the people who fix the dates for the openings of expositions, being the greatest little moombers in the country.

THINGS WE DIDN'T KNOW.

American railway service is not perfect.—Hon. John Sharp Williams.

It is desired to contradict the report that there is jealousy in this city over the fact that Mr. Raymond A. Armbruster, the Cumberland scientist, has had some fossils named for him. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Eighth Wonder.

G. S. K.: Don't you really think we should all stand and congratulate ourselves? Just think! The Shoreham Hotel was actually remodeled and again opened for business without being called the NEW Shoreham!

W. W. W.

It may be, as the "Times" puts it, that Democratic Senators, in their anxiety regarding Mr. Wilson's plans, "are lying awake nights." But how about the days?

THE VERSATILE ISABEL.

(From The "Star.")
Second honors were given Miss Isabel Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bell, of New York, who was dressed as a little New Yorker, who was dressed as a little New Yorker.

The men who stand in line all night for the privilege of buying the initial ticket for a new theater or car line should not overlook the fact that it will be quite an honor to be the first man to try out the electric chair in the District. We wish 'em all luck.

Fast as is Mr. Wilson's nasal appendage upon the track of District iniquities, we'll give odds that we can go out and count 10 open trailers a week after the Governor's inauguration.

YOURS TRULY, GENTLEMEN!

(From The "Times.")
The boys in Sparta were not allowed to do THIS AND THAT, nor much of THE OTHER.

"Miss Inez Milholland," says the "Post," "still considered by the suffragists the most beautiful young woman in their ranks, despite conflicting claims to the contrary." We can take a hint. What the "Post" means, undoubtedly, are disagreeing opinions proclaiming the opposite.

The L. C. C. order on street car crowding went into effect at 12:30 this morning, and was observed throughout the city until nearly 8 o'clock.

At the tariff hearing today are being discussed ways and means for pulling the schedule K over the public eye.

THE MUSINGS OF A CONDUCTOR.

By William H. Severance.
We try to be polite to all on board. Let me say to you nothing. For some people are born cranks. They may call it eccentricities. But they're not. They're faults. If you want to see people who raise old nick, just watch them when they're returning from an excursion or picnic.

We have our trials and tribulations, but that comes to people in every station. When we have made our last trip, and our day's work is done. We gather up our traps and make a home. There to meet joy or sorrow. But we meet with the same thing on tomorrow. (It's all over.)

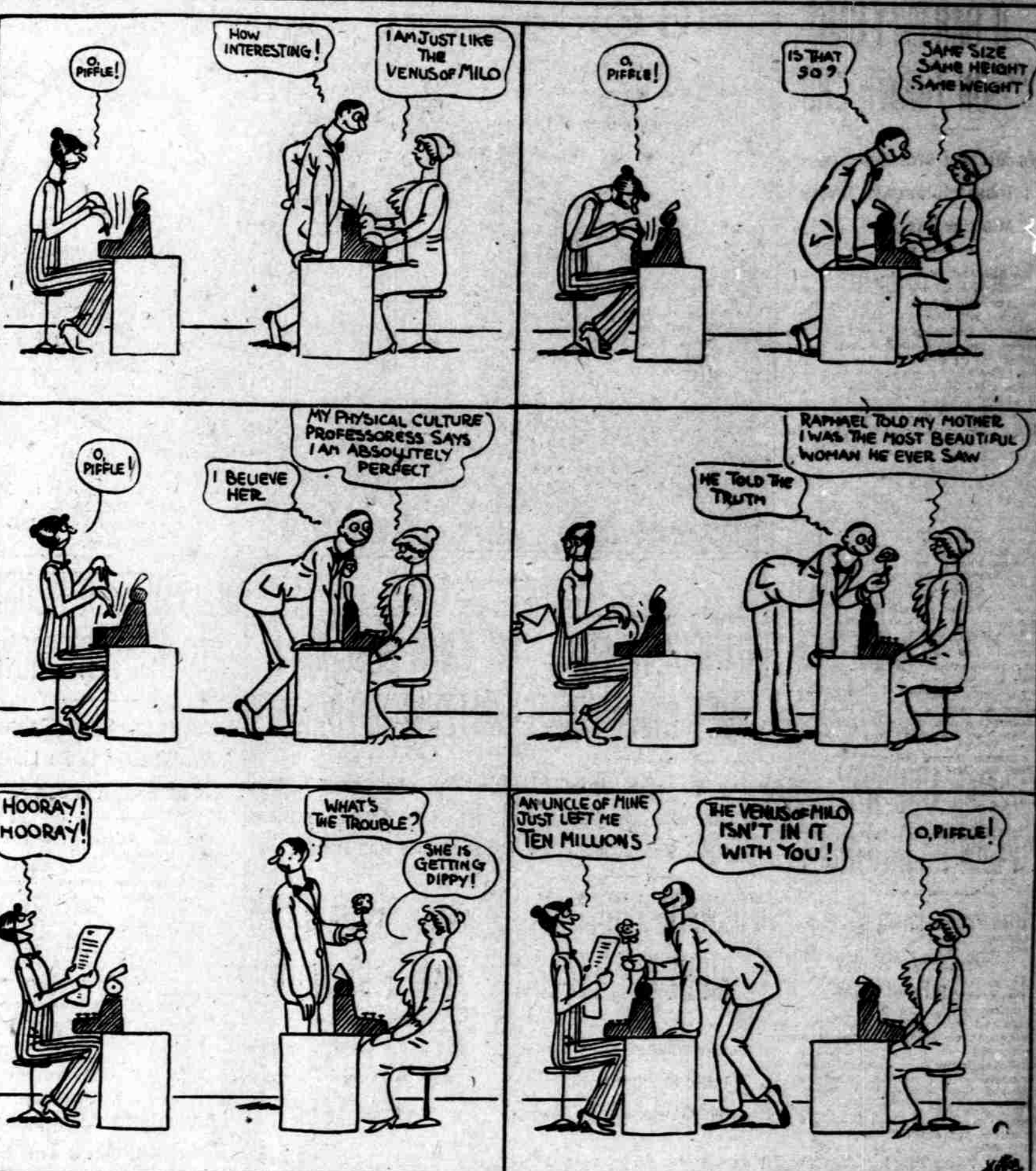
Exit the waste strike.

"Everyone," says Senator Burton, "has his own idea about monetary legislation."

You better us, Theodore.

G. S. K.

SUCH IS LIFE! By MAURICE KETTEN



The Jarr Family

Mr. Jarr Learns How to Become True Moving Picture Cowboy.

"YOU wouldn't want anything better than life on the range," began young Mr. Sidney Slavinsky, better known to the millions of admirers who have seen him in the movies as Sidney Slavin, the Badlands Bronco Buster, star of the Gory Scalp Brand of Genuine Western Pictures.

"Yes," continued the king of moving picture cowboys, "if your health is bad, you feel all run down, you want to join out with a movie stock company and get some action and excitement. Riding horseback means getting out in the fresh air."

"So, even if all the cave and log cabin scenes is taken in the studio, and there ain't no ventilation in the studio because a draught would make the scenery wave and shake, some of the work gets you in the open."

"But how did you first become a moving picture cowboy?" asked Mr. Jarr.

"Did you become a photoplayer for the sake of your health?"

Certainly Not!

He Played Piano

"No," said young Mr. Slavinsky. "I was playing the piano in Casey's Calerette Cabaret—you know, the original ragtime rathskeller."

"I've heard of it," replied Mr. Jarr. "So he had; such times as it was reported in the newspapers as being raided."

"Well," young Mr. Slavinsky went on, "I was sitting in front of the hurdy gurdy. Short-Change Sam, the barton waiter, had just finished singing 'Cokey Mokey,' the dope rag that was such a hit in society and the slums last year."

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Amusements.

National—"The Quaker Girl," 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—"Zaza," 8 p. m.
Columbia—"The Sunshine Girl," 8 p. m.
Chase-Polite vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Polite-Vaudeville, afternoon and evening.
Academy—"Six Hopkins," 8:15 p. m.
Casino-Vaudeville, afternoon and evening.
Cosmos—Vaudeville, afternoon and evening.
Gayety-College Girls Burlesques, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Lycum-Bohemia Burlesques, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

GOOD STORIES

Nothing to Do.

CHARLEY SING, a Chinese gardener, peddles truck in Salt Lake City. One of his best customers is a banker.

One morning Sing drove up to solicit orders for vegetables, and he found the banker working among the flowers in the yard. It was Decoration Day, and the bank was closed.

"You no work today?" inquired Sing.

"I should say not!" replied the banker. "This is a holiday."

"We work all same every day," said Sing. "Me work all same every day 'cept Sunday afternoon."

"What do you do Sunday afternoon, if you don't work?" inquired the banker.

"Me washes plenty shirt last all week," was the Chinese's reply.—Judge.

In Search of His Home.

PEACEABLE resident was rudely awakened from sleep last week at about 2:30 a. m. by a loud ring at his doorbell.

Throwing open the window, he stuck his head out and in no very pleasant manner demanded to know what was wanted.

"Excuse me, sir," answered a muddled voice. "Does Jones—his—his—live here?"

"Jones?" said the party addressed angrily. "Of course not. What do you mean by ringing people's bells at this time of morning? Who are you, anyway?"

"Who'm I?" asked the disturber, apparently surprised at not being recognized. "Why, I'm Jones."—Lippincott's.

A "High Cost" Reason.

A WOMAN went to a fruiterer's to buy apples the other day. The price of the apples shocked her.

"Why are these so high?" she complained.

"They're high, ma'am," said the salesman, with a gallant smile. "because they're so scarce."

"But," said the woman, "I read yesterday's paper that the apples were rotting on the trees."

The salesman rubbed his hands. He smiled more gallantly than ever.

"That's just it, madam," he said. "That's why they're scarce, of course. It doesn't pay you, see, to pick 'em."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Why Consider Them.

"I THINK the schoolteachers in this town ought to get more money than they do."

"What put that kind of an idea in your head?"

"Why should we expect the people who are educating our children to work for 40 or 50 cents a month when we pay our chauffeurs at least \$100 and furnish them with board and lodging besides?"

"But what does school-teacher's amount to, anyhow? Look at most of the teachers. They ain't got nothin' but education."—Chicago Tribune.

In Ample Time.

"I WANT to be sure not to miss the early train," a bit anxiously said the drummer, according to the Kansas City Star.

"No danger of that, podner!" reassuringly replied the landlady of the tavern at Polkville, Ark. "We'll rouse you out plenty early enough in the mornin' so's you can be at the depot promptly at train time and set around in the cold for two hours and twenty minutes, or such a matter, waitin' for the train to come."

His Idea of a Job.

THE Democratic members of the House of Representatives have been besieged by a horde of office-seekers, willing to serve their country.

"It is refreshing," said one Congressman in discussing the office question, "to hear of an aspirant for public office who frankly admits his ambition, yet disdains to seek a position in which he will have nothing to do but draw his salary."

Two wayside pilgrims were talking over things when one of them asked: "Dick, you ain't a banker' after no Government place, are ya?"

"I don't mind sayin' I'd take one other, but I don't want no job that's all fat. I'm willing to earn my salary. And what sort of job would be about you ainer?"

"Well, I'd like to fill fountain pens for some Assistant Secretary of the Treasury."—Judge.

What's on the Program in Washington Today

The following Masonic organizations will meet tonight: Lodges—Dawson, No. 16, M. M.; Stanton, No. 24, business; Royal Arch chapters—Mount Vernon, No. 3, visitation; Anacostia, No. 12, business; Masonic and Eastern Star Home—Monthly meeting board of directors, Eastern Star chapters—Temple, No. 13, Columbia, No. 15, Washington Division, No. 1, business; meeting tonight: Lodges—Union, No. 11; Covenant, No. 13; Benona, No. 14, and Landon, No. 18, Rebekah Degrees—Bath Lodge, No. 4, business and social session. The following P. O. U. E. lodges will meet tonight: Decatur, No. 5; Calantha, No. 11, page rank; Equal, No. 17.

K. O. T. M. tents will meet tonight, as follows: National, at old Masonic Temple, regular review and initiation; Washington Division, No. 1, business meeting, old Masonic Temple; Mount Vernon, regular review, Northeast Temple; Anacostia, Masonic Hall, Anacostia.

Meeting of Cyrus Castle, No. 1, Golden Eagle, 62 Louisiana avenue northwest, tonight.

The following National Union Councils will meet tonight: Scott, at Pythian Temple; Northeast, at Northeast Temple.

Meeting of Oange Tribe, No. 5, I. O. E. M. Fifth, 62 G streets northwest, tonight.

Meeting of North Capitol and Eckington Citizens' Association, St. Mark's Hall, North Capitol, 7 and 8 streets, 7:30 p. m.

Meeting of West End Citizens' Association, Elder Hall, 22 Twenty-third street northwest, 8 p. m.

Benefit performance for Georgetown University Hospital, The Sunshine Girl, the Columbia, 8:15.

Concert by United States Marine Band Orchestra, Marine Barracks, 2 p. m.

Concert by Trilled States Soldiers Home Band, Stanley Hall, 2:30 p. m.

Meeting of board of directors of Chamber of Commerce, Twelfth and F streets northwest, 8 p. m.

Weekly meeting of Central Labor Union, Typographical Temple, 425-427 G street northwest, 8 p. m.

Dinner by Southern Commercial Congress in honor of Sir Horace Plunkett, the Shorham, 7 to 9 p. m.

Social evening, musical and refreshments, National Library for Blind, tonight.

Fiftieth annual banquet of Michigan State Association, Rauscher's, 3 p. m.

Meeting of presidents of all the corps in the Department of the Potomac, W. R. C., as guests of Lincoln Corps No. 6, Grand Army Hall, tonight.